

Gray-Haired Oarsmen Show Oldtime Form With Sweeps

Collisions Add to Excitement at Annual Metropolitan Rowing Club Regatta

By A. C. Cavagnaro

Displaying a remarkably efficiency with the oars, the Metropolitan Rowing Club crew, which captured the national eight-oared championship in 1916, gave an exhibition at the annual regatta of the club, held on the Harlem River yesterday. The gray-haired oarsmen sent their light craft through the water as if they had lost none of their old speed, and their performance made the younger sweep handlers on hand envious.

Only two members of the original crew were absent, Percy Nagle being in camp at Spartanburg, S. C., while Tom McTyre has been called to the great beyond. Their places were taken by John O. Regan and Jack Smith, both of whom have spent over thirty years at the rowing sport.

Quarter-Mile Exhibition

The former champions gave a one-quarter-mile exhibition, and at the end were going stronger than ever. Not a splash was noticeable in the lifting of their oars from the water as they rowed along with the precision of a clock tick. James Pilkington, president of the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen, who acted as stroke, sent his veteran mates along at 32-stroke from the moment they went off their mark.

Besides Pilkington, Smith and Regan, the other men in the boat were W. E. Cody, bow; James O. Smith, No. 2; W. P. Hannam, No. 3; Ben Jackson, No. 4; M. Wilson, No. 5, and Rockwell Kent, No. 7.

The regatta was replete with several surprises and exciting incidents. In the eight-oar open shell race the New York Athletic Club crew met with unexpected defeat at the hands of the junior Ravenswood Boat Club of Long Island, in a stirring finish. It was a stroke-for-stroke battle until the last 100 yards, when both teams spurred, with the Ravenswood youngsters pulling away in the last half dozen strokes to win by one-quarter of a length. Tom Rooney, the national singles shell champion, who is in the Naval Reserve, stroked his juniors to victory. It was the first time the boys had rowed together in an eight.

Two Boat Collisions

The race had to be re-run owing to a collision near the finish line. The trouble was caused by the rudder rope of the Nonpareil Boat Club becoming entangled in the steering gear. The "Non" coxswain was unable to get his shell out of the way of the New York and Ravenswood boats, and all three boats came together. The Nonpareil shell had a hole ripped in its bow and the men quit the race.

Another collision occurred in the eight-oared shell race, closed to Metropolitan oarsmen, but the race was allowed to stand as it was. The fault was declared to be the fault of the crew with the crews in their tactics to crowd each other. The crew stroked by Nick Green, which was in third place when the accident occurred, went on to win by several lengths.

The open centipede race went to the New York Athletic Club representatives after a stiff fight with the Nonpareil Boat Club, which combination faltered at the end. The Athletic Club men won by one length.

The winners followed: Centipede race (open)—Won by New York A. 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